



...Caring People Providing Quality Service

FIRE DISTRICT OF SUN CITY WEST

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NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 A.M. MT, August 31, 2010

September is National Preparedness Month- *Are You Ready?*

(SUN CITY WEST, AZ), (AUGUST 31), 2010 – Preparedness is everybody's responsibility. Yet research on preparedness shows that people who believe themselves to be "prepared" for disasters often aren't as prepared as they think. Only 57% of people report that they have readiness items set aside in their homes for use in case of a disaster. Just 34% of people have readiness supplies in their car. Less than half of households have an Emergency Plan and yet, 42% of individuals report they would need help during a disaster. *Are You Ready?*

September is National Preparedness Month and the Fire District of Sun City West wants to help community members get *Ready*. The focus of the "*Are You Ready?*" program is to help prepare community members in case there is an emergency or disaster in our community. Whether community members stay in their home or evacuate will depend on the incident but the most important factor either way is that they must be prepared. Having a plan, communicating that plan with family members, preparing an emergency supply kit, and preparing our homes for emergency situations is essential.

Community members can address emergency preparedness and their specific needs by attending a free emergency preparedness awareness training the first Wednesday of each month at the RH Johnson Recreation Center Lecture Hall at 19803 RH Johnson Blvd, in Sun City West. Doors open at 1:30 and the presentation is from 2:00-3:30 p.m..

In Sun City West, community members can fill out a special needs form so that, in an emergency or disaster, emergency rescue officials can help with needed assistance or evacuation. Forms are available throughout the Sun City West community at the Fire District administration office, Posse, PORA, Interfaith Community Care, Sun City West Foundation, Recreation Centers, library, and pharmacies, as well as the Fire District website at www.scwfire.org. Residents can fill out the form and mail or bring it into the Fire District Administration Office, 18818 N Spanish Garden Dr., Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00 excluding holidays.

Another tool for Emergency Preparedness is CENS. CENS is the Community Emergency Notification System also referred to as “Reverse 911” for emergency notification. The system is designed to rapidly notify an affected area of an emergency by sending a recorded message through the telephone system. CENS uses the 911 database to extract phone numbers determined by the circle or area drawn on the CENS map. CENS launches a prerecorded message to the telephone numbers in the area defined.

Cell and VoIP phones are not part of the 911 database; however, the public can now register Cell or VoIP phones with the CENS system. (CENS notifications are based on the address you provide for your Cell and or VoIP phone.) To register your Cell or VoIP phone visit <http://www.maricoparegion911.org/cens.htm>

The Sun City West Fire District is also contributing to a safer, stronger, and better prepared community by offering an automated community information and notification system. Fire District officials are now able to send electronic messages and simultaneously reach all of the District residents and property owners that have enrolled in this free service. There is no cost to register or to use the secure service and you may choose to opt out from the information and notification system at any time.

The Sun City West Fire District urges its residents and property owners to register for this exciting new way to stay in touch with what is happening in YOUR Fire District. To register for this free service, visit the District’s website at www.scwfire.org and click on the *Information and Notification System* link.

Becoming more prepared in case of an emergency is easier than you might think. Whether it’s your home, your neighborhood, your place of business, or your school, you can take a few simple steps to prepare yourself and your community. For additional information or to request an “Are You Ready?” presentation on emergency preparedness, contact the Sun City West Fire District at (623) 584-3500.

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